



April 6, 2007

Melissa Miller-Henson
Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson,

I am writing to submit my name as a nominee for the Marine Life Protection Act North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group. Over the last seven years, I have supported the implementation of the MLPA at many levels, including participating on the Pt. Arena to Año Nuevo regional panel in 2002. Through my work on the MLPA, and my other work on state fisheries issues, I have developed good working relationships with many members of the commercial and sportfishing community, as well as both local and national conservation organizations in the area. For example, working on the development of the state's abalone management and research plan was an opportunity to learn about the status of abalone and to work with local abalone divers. I spent six years as a member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel and I serve as an advisor to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. I have supported and participated in collaborative research at Duxbury Reef and I live in the Bay Area, so this coastline is my backyard where I hike, camp, and kayak.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has more than 124,000 members in California. Our members strongly support the creation of marine protected areas, as do a majority of Californians, according to recent polls. Since the North Central MPA network is one part of the larger statewide network, I believe it is valuable for the regional stakeholder group to be knowledgeable not only about the details of one specific region but also how decisions in that region fit into the larger statewide network of MPAs and the framework of other ocean regulations. Because NRDC works on other key issues that affect the ocean, such as water quality and climate change, I would also bring insights from my colleagues on how these issues could inform the design of marine protected areas.

I have a strong track record of working constructively on stakeholder panels and I would work actively with other conservation interests and local residents to represent their views at the Regional Stakeholder Group. I already provide a regular email update on the MLPA process to the conservation community, including many local groups and individuals. I am committed to seeing that the goals of the law are met, and I believe

that we can craft a network for the North Central region that balances the needs of coastal communities with the necessary marine protection. Participating in the group would be my main priority through 2008 and I will set aside all the time necessary to develop a package that can pass scientific muster, meet the goals of the act, and receive wide support by stakeholders and the Fish & Game Commission.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Wing". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "K" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kate Wing